5. There should be more Patasalas in the various parts of the country where pupils might undergo training for three years preparatory to their higher studies in the Ayurvedic College at Trivandrum.

6. Proper encouragement should be given to candidates who came out successful from the Ayurveda Patasala at Trivandrum.

7. An area of at least 1,000 acres should be handed over to the Ayurveda department for the cultivation of herbs and medicinal plants.

8. Rare books on Ayurveda, so far as they were available, should be published and new books should be compiled on kindred subjects in the light of modern knowledge.

9. The preparation of a Travancore Ayurvedic Pharmacopia and the standardisation of the Ayurvedic drugs should be arranged for.

10. An Ayurvedic Journal should be published and a wider diffusion of knowledge of Ayurveda among people at large secured by organising magic lantern lectures in the mofussil.

11. Vaidyans should be encouraged to specialise in various departments of Ayurveda so that in times of epidemics those specialists might be of considerable use to the public.

12. Legislation should be introduced to weed out quacks who were a curse to society.

13. More Vishavaidyasalas should be opened, as snake bite was very common in the Karunagapalli taluk. The Member advocated the appointment of a Vishavaidyan for each Desom in the Taluk. He also invited the attention of Government to the fact that leprosy was a common disease in his taluk for which in his opinion the Ayurvedic system of treatment was found to be most effective.

14. The pay of the Director of Ayurveda and the Vaidyan in charge of the Ayurvedic hospital and dispensary should be enhanced and the grants to the Vaidyans should be increased. In the opinion of the Member, the proposed appointment of an Inspector of Vaidyasalas was not going to effect any improvement in the grant-in-aid institutions, unless it was preceded by the increase of grants to Vaidyans most of whom received only a sum of Rs. 10 as grant. After deducting the expenses of stationery, house rent, &c., there was hardly anything left out of the grant for the Vaidyan with which to prepare medicines, &c.

15. The grant to the Patasala at Changankulangara should be raised.

96. Certain suggestions for the imprvement of the Ayurveda Department.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panickar (Member, Nominated) said that, though 36 years had passed since the establishment of the Ayurveda department, it had not made appreciable progress. In the opinion of the Member, the two most urgent steps that had to be taken were: (1) remedying the defects that had crept into the Ayurvedic system, and (2) popularisation of Ayurveda among people. He first desired to correct the impression formed by Government that Ayurvedic medicines were more costly than allopathic medicines and said that it was incorrect, and that in the experience of the people Ayurvedic treatment and medicines were very much cheaper than English treatment and medicines. He then stated that the Patasala at Trivandrum was not at all run on proper lines. The present curricula of studies were impracticable. The Patasala should be raised to the status of a College under a strong Committee of expert Vaidyans. The Director and Principal should find a place on the Committee which should also be an examining body. Since the Patasala was being shifted very often from place to place and since the hospital and pharmacy were isolated from the Patasala, the pupils could not enjoy the benefit of the institution to the fullest extent

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possible. The Member was of opinion that the Patasala, the hospital and the pharmacy should be in the same compound or near one another. The condition of the botanical garden was also very unsatisfactory. The Member also suggested that, instead of the present titles of 'Vaidyan' and 'Maha Vaidyan', some such title as 'Ayurveda Vidagdhan' might be conferred on those who passed from the College. Though surgery was taught in the Patasala from the current year, it benefited only the existing students. In order that others also might benefit by it, the Member suggested that fresh batches of Vaidyans should be afforded facilities for studying surgery in the Patasala and the Vaidyans who studied surgery should be given sufficient encouragement. The Member also said that quacks were a great danger to society and should be forbidden from practising. He next urged that Ayurveda hospitals on the lines of the institution at Trivandrum shoud be opened in important towns in the mofussil such as Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam. The Member wanted that the strength of the physicians in the hospital at Trivandrum should be increased. He advocated the establishment of an Ayurveda medical store which should produce medicines on a big scale by machinery and which should be able to supply medicines throughout Travancore.

The Member was of opinion that the present grant-in-aid system should be abolished and the Vaidyans should be given pay. There were Vaidyans ready to build and equip Vaidyasalas on plans approved by the Director of Ayurveda and hand them over to Government, if Government would encourage them by giving them salaries and appointing Vaidyans to assist them in conducting such dispensaries.

The Member also represented that Vishavaidyasalas were an absolute necessity and that more encouragement should be given to Vishavaidyans than at present. He also pleaded for the deputation of grant-in-aid Vaidyans to the Ayurvedic hospital to make them up to date and for the abolition of the useless Vaidyasalas.

In conclusion, he urged that measures should be taken for stamping out elephantiasis from Shertallay and that some expert should be deputed for the investigation of the causes of elephantiasis at Shertallay.

Dewan's reply.—It is not my object to decry Ayurvedic medicines. I only quoted Dr. Koman's statement that it is doubtful whether Ayurvedic medicines are really cheaper than allopathic medicines. So far as the Government are concerned, they will be quite ready to encourage, as they have been encouraging, Ayurvedic medicines, irrespective of cost, if they are really good and really useful. This will be seen from the amount spent last year on Ayurvedic medicines. Although the budget allotment was only Rs. 10,000, it was subsequently increased to Rs. 22,000. Government are fully aware of the importance of Ayurvedic treatment and are doing all that they can to encourage the system. I have already made this clear in my opening Address. Government agree with Mr. Padmanabha Panickar in saying that the Ayurvedic institutions are housed in very inconvenient localities and buildings in Trivandrum. I have already made inspections with a view to improve this state of affairs. Government also agree with the Member that these institutions should, as far as possible, be all housed in the same premises and that the garden for the cultivation of Ayurvedic medicial herbs should also, if possible, be in the same compound or very near it. The Member is right in saying that in the matter of grants-in-aid, the aim of Government should be to limit the grants to really good Ayurveda physicians and to make the grants substantial. The Director has already been asked to make suggestions on these lines. Government do not agree with Mr. Sankaran Padmanabhan when he says that it is unnecessary to employ an Inspector to inspect aided Vaidyans and institutions. Even the determination of the question who are the Vaidyans that deserve grants involves inspection. The suggestion to legislate with a view to prohibit Ayurvedic treatment being given by impostors is an important one. My remarks will, I am sure, convince the Member that Government are not neglecting Ayurveda but are ready to give it all possible encouragement. In regard to the question of investigating elephantiasis, if any properly equipped Vaidyans come forward to undertake the work, Government will be glad to consider how they should be encouraged.

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